

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

SHEILA “Skip” NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

April 8, 2015

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy was held on

April 8, 2015 at Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy, 43 Hawes Street, Central Falls, RI. Co- Chair Deborah Perry welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present: Deborah Perry, Patricia Flanagan, Stephanie Gonzalez, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Suzanne Magaziner, Deirdre Denning Norton, Clarice LaVerne Thompson, Nancy Wilson and Jodi LaFauci.

Absent: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Susan Gershkoff, Beata Nelken, Toby Simon, and William Walter.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Deborah Perry requested a motion to accept the agenda.

On a motion duly made by Nancy Wilson and seconded by Patricia Flanagan it was

VOTED: That Vote:

YEAS:

NAYS:

2. OPEN FORUM

the Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy accept the agenda for the meeting of April 8, 2015.

8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Patricia Flanagan, Stephanie Gonzalez, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Suzanne Magaziner, Deirdre Denning Norton, Clarice LaVerne Thompson, Nancy Wilson.

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Co-Chair Perry explained to the audience that the Board of Directors will allow for public comment, limited to two minutes per person and beginning with comments pertaining to approval items on tonight's meeting agenda before accepting comments on other topics.

Members of the Board of Directors were asked to give their full

attention to speakers but were reminded that they could not engage speakers in conversation or answer questions.

If concerns or questions were raised from Open Forum topics, the Board could direct staff to follow up. There was no public comment.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Deborah Perry reported that there would be an Executive Board Member meeting next week to discuss BOD succession, a packet for new BOD members and BOD roles and responsibilities.

b. Deborah Perry reported that she met with the Annenberg Institute regarding guidance in hiring a lead for the strategic plan. Joseph DiMartino has offered services at no cost to the school to lead the educational portion of the strategic plan and the Board will handle the financial portion of the plan.

c. The BOD agreed the Executive Committee would begin the process of forming the strategic planning team.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Stephanie Gonzalez and seconded by Joseph DiMartino it was

VOTED: That Vote:

the Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy accept Minutes of the

Meeting for March 4, 2015.

8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Patricia Flanagan, Stephanie Gonzalez, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino,

YEAS:

Suzanne Magaziner, Deirdre Denning Norton, Clarice LaVerne Thompson, Nancy Wilson.

NAYS: 0

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Bill Walter was absent and Michael Commendatore would present a financial update later in the meeting.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Deborah Perry said personnel items would be discussed in Executive Session.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Deborah Perry removed action item regarding a substitute teacher as there are already funds for substitutes at Nowell.

Michael Commendatore requested to table action items regarding a temporary bookkeeper, an account at Citizens and petty cash.

8.

9.

MANAGING DIRECTOR UPDATE

a. Michael Commendatore reported that the Audit began on April 2, 2015 and there were issues in the previous financial system. The board can expect a corrected trial balance by next meeting.

b. Currently, he is using the UCOA software and working with RIDE on outstanding items detaining release of state funding.

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

a. Jodi LaFauci updated the board on PARRC testing. Nowell has students testing in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Discussion included number of students testing, grade level of students, testing windows and occurrence, results from the test, testing options including opting out of testing and school participation is not optional.

b. Jodi LaFauci updated the board on the WCI (Wireless Classroom

Initiative) refund from RIDE. Jodi reported that through working with Dave Wilder and the WCI team Nowell can expect an award of \$23,650.00 reimbursement of \$32,681.00 technology costs.

c. Jodi LaFauci reported that Nowell has received Final Approval Status and will release funds to the school. Jodi reviewed the Consolidated Resource Plan in detail regarding Title I, Title II-A and IDEA Part B funds. Discussion included carry-over of no more than 15% of Title I into succeeding fiscal years whereas Title II-A and IDEA Part B funds can be flexed into next school year. Discussion included RIDE's release of funds directly to Nowell as a public charter high school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.

Executive session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) - sessions pertaining to litigation; reasonably anticipated litigation involving former employees.

Motion to conclude Executive Session and reconvene Open Session

Vote to seal minutes/votes taken during Executive Session if disclosure of such

minutes/votes in Open Session would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under §42-46-5(a)

On a motion duly made by Suzanne Magaziner and seconded by Gigi DiBello it was

VOTED: That the Nowell Leadership Board of Directors enter into Executive Session.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Patricia Flanagan, Stephanie Gonzalez, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Suzanne Magaziner, Deirdre Denning Norton, Clarice LaVerne Thompson, Nancy Wilson.

NAYS: 0

10. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion duly made by Deirdre Denning Norton and seconded by Clarice LaVerne Thompson it was

VOTED: That the Nowell Leadership Board of Directors vote to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Patricia Flanagan, Stephanie Gonzalez, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Suzanne Magaziner, Deirdre Denning Norton, Clarice LaVerne Thompson, Nancy Wilson.

NAYS: 0

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Nancy Wilson with no objections. Co-Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM.